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Partin Closeted With Rackets Panel 4 Hours

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Teamster official Edward Grady Partin spent more than four hours yesterday in the closed hearing of the state anti-rackets committee.

Partin, business agent for Teamsters Local No. 5, was the only witness during the afternoon and then returned for more than one hour of a night session.

He said the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, created by Gov. John McKeithen after last summer's tieup of industrial construction in the Baton Rouge area, indicated it may want him to return later.

JAMES H. "Buddy" Gill, official of an industrial contractors association, entered the commission hearing room after Partin came out.

Partin said he was asked whether he owned an interest in a new auto race track south of here and "I told them to check with the secretary of state."

Partin's attorneys said he declined to answer some questions on grounds that to do so would violate his oath of secrecy in grand jury testimony.

PARTIN TOLD of having verbal clashes in the secret session with chief counsel Camille Gravel of the commission, who reportedly plans to resign his post.

He said chairman Cecil Morgan twice demanded that Gravel show the commission what his questions had to do with the rackets probe.

Partin said he was questioned about an alleged attempt to bribe him, a claim that he was the subject of two assassination plots, pending lawsuits against him, and Teamster connections with a vending machine firm.

"IT WAS more or less on the criminal aspects — the things that are before the grand jury," Partin said. "It was not on the subject of labor and management."

Partin followed Life magazine newsman Dave Chandler into the closed-door meeting in the Senate chamber.

When Chandler emerged from the hearing room, his attorney, Cicero Sessions of New Orleans, said that "his own knowledge was very limited in the area in which he was interrogated."

THE ATTORNEY said names and substance could not be discussed because they would get into areas being probed by grand juries in the state.

Sessions said the commission asked Chandler about labor and management matters only, and nothing concerning crime in general.

In a series of articles on organized crime in Louisiana, Life Magazine said a $1 million bribe was offered to Partin in an alleged attempt to buy freedom from prison for James Hoffa, former Teamsters president convicted of a federal jury tampering charge. Partin was sta[illegible] witness for the prosecution.